

ment of Esophageal Diverticula," clearly describes methods of diagnosis and treatment which may be followed with confidence by surgeons of less experience.

At this time when so much attention is directed to the discovery of blood, occult and otherwise, in the stomach contents and feces, the observations of Pilcher on the "Absence of HCL with Blood in the Stomach Secretion as a Symptom of Chronic Gastritis" is significant. Of 100 cases operated upon, in only 2 was ulcer found. In four, gastro-enterostomy had been performed elsewhere and was cut off at this operation. There was found, however, in a good proportion of the cases, disease in other organs—in the appendix 36 times, gall bladder 32, gall bladder and pancreas 16, and in 12 cases stomach, gall bladder and appendix were concomitantly diseased. All of which goes to prove the dictum that no abdominal operation, undertaken for the relief of chronic disease, is complete unless a careful examination of all the accessible viscera is made at the same time. No other factor, excepting gross ignorance, makes so much for incomplete abdominal work as the desire to finish the operation in record-breaking time. Yet some great surgeons are not without this vanity.

The ulcer-carcinoma papers by MacCarty and Wilson and Willis have been widely read and frequently quoted. With 70% of all cancers of the stomach showing "gross and microscopic evidences of previous ulceration and isolation of epithelium" any plea for early diagnosis and suitable operative interference is unnecessary. The fact that 12 of the articles in this section deal more or less with carcinoma is proof of the frequency with which this disease affects the alimentary tract and few will deny that in early operation and wide removal lies the only hope of effecting a cure.

The statement of W. J. Mayo on page 127 that they "have never had any complaint of gastric distress from patients after operation" (in gastrectomies or gastrojejunostomies), "if there was unobstructed opening for the passage onward of the food," is certainly not the experience of other operators. These patients often do feel distress after full meals. This distress is prevented by smaller and more frequent feedings which is the secret of the successful after treatment of these cases.

In the genito-urinary section there are three excellent articles by Braasch on "Deformities of the Renal Pelvis," "Recent Developments in Pyelography" and "Examination of the Surgical Kidney." The articles on "Hypernephromata" by Wilson and a "Study of the Histology of the So-called Hypernephromata and the Embryology of the Nephridial and Adrenal Tissues" by Wilson and Willis in the same section, deserve careful study. On the evidence adduced from the study of renal tumors swine and human embryos they conclude that the "so-called adrenal rests are probably of Wolffian origin," in contradiction of Grawitz's hypothesis that the so-called "hypernephromata have their origin in the adrenal rests."

Of the seven articles in the section devoted to the ductless glands four are by C. H. Mayo and deal with the diagnosis and treatment of hyperthyroidism. Coming from the pen of a man of such wide experience the articles are reliable guides in the handling of these most difficult cases. Of the remaining articles, which of necessity must go unmentioned, it is sufficient to say that they hold a fund of valuable information useful to the practitioner as well as the surgeon, affording a storehouse of up-to-date knowledge, with most of which, all of us should be familiar. The print is large and clear, the illustrations of which there are many, generally good; but why publishers persist in using glazed paper is beyond this reviewer's ken.

T. G. I.

**The Prevention of Sexual Diseases.** Victor C. Vecki, M. D. With Introduction by William J. Robinson, M. D. 12 Mt. Morris Park W., New York, 1910.

The synoptical plan followed by the author in the little work before us, detracts in no wise from the frank and wholesome breeziness of his treatment of the subject-matter. He has condensed in most cogent and interesting form, practically the substance of the most mature views on this vital and hitherto usually glossed-over phase of social life. No attempt has been made to benumb the mind with a mass of indigestible statistics; or make mawkish appeal to the sensibilities through the recital of harrowing case-histories. The time and the opportunity for the dissemination of wholesome and unglossed truths regarding the consequences of the disobedience of the laws of sex-hygiene, have long awaited fearless propagandists. The author is one of the first to come into the open with commendable directness and vigor.

This little work should have a wide distribution, not only among the laity, by whom it may be read with exceeding profit by the understanding, but by physicians themselves. The reviewer has only too frequently observed the crude, half-formed and often incorrect views held by the medical profession on matters of sex-hygiene and venereal prophylaxis. For all such this timely little work forms an admirable sign-board.

It were well for the author to have tempered somewhat his extreme, not to say violent, opposition to the very proper and reasonable requirement of the State Health Board calling for the reporting of cases of venereal disease, since the very reason causing him to inveigh so strongly against the rule is swept aside in the absence of anything in the rule to call for a revelation of the identity of the patient.

To be sure this country has as yet no lock and key quarantine and the public is too sadly lacking in information regarding the value of venereal prophylaxis to accept meekly the publicity that goes with compulsory notification in its extreme form. Compulsory quarantine as it exists in Denmark and Norway is only resorted to when the individual refuses or neglects proper treatment of his condition. Up to this point his privacy is safeguarded by a number. When by his refusal to comply with perfectly reasonable regulations looking to the protection of his environment from possible infection, he then becomes a menace from whom the public is entitled to protection.

It is a well-known fact, that the statistics in this country regarding the mere prevalence of venereal diseases and their sequelae are woefully deficient and not calculated to give them their proper importance in the morbidity and mortality statistics. Since by our State Board's ruling the privacy of the patient is perfectly preserved, the reactionary attitude of a large body of the medical men of the State is not readily understandable. If the public, medical and lay, is to be made properly aware of the important role venereal diseases play in the morbidity and mortality in that one-sixth of the 600,000 deaths from preventable diseases, according to the figures of United States Senator Robert L. Owen, then facts must be carefully collected and tabulated.

There can be no body of men better qualified to supply such data accurately than the members of the medical profession.

J. C. S.

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